MONTEREY NEWS

JANUARY 1994

THE TOWN

The Selectmen unanimously voted to change Board of Health meetings from Monday mornings at 10:30 to Monday evenings at 7. This change comes at the request of Selectman Stefan Grotz, who objected to serving on the Board of Health *in absentia* and said that if the Board continued to meet on Monday mornings, he would consider resigning. Grotz also pointed out that if it were decided to create a Board of Health separate from the Board of Selectmen, the Monday morning meeting time would be a barrier to prospective Board of Health members. Historically, the Board of Health meetings were held just prior to regular meetings of the Board of Selectmen on Monday evenings. A few years ago the Board of Selectmen was composed of individuals who were either retired or employed locally, and had flexible schedules. It seemed logical, at that point, to dedicate a separate meeting time for the Board of Health on Monday mornings. However, Selectman Grotz is a lawyer who needs to conduct his business during conventional hours, and thus the change back to the old meeting time, Mondays at 7 p.m. The change will also allow readers of the *Monterey News* to learn more about the Board of Health, since this reporter was never able to attend the morning meetings, either!

P. MURKETT

The Town Library on Monday evening, December 20, 1993

The Selectmen met with both Police Chief Gareth Backhaus and Highway Superintendent Don Amstead to discuss the question of safety at the intersection of Routes 23 and 57 in Monterey. Chief Backhaus reported on a recent accident that could easily have proved fatal, and those at the meeting agreed that the intersection is confusing at best. Various safety improvements were discussed, including the installation of lights, and the placement of a "Dangerous Intersection" sign. Highway Superintendent Amstead advocated installing a flashing red light. Selectman Peter Brown has drafted a letter to the District Highway Engineer outlining the Board's concerns.

Osborne E. Dugan, Chair of the Board of Appeals, has submitted his resignation. Dugan has served on the Appeals Board since 1979, and he has been Chairman for thirteen years. The Selectmen voted unanimously to appoint Cynthia Weber to the Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by Dugan's resignation. Ms. Weber will serve until the May, 1994 Town Election; then, by law, the unexpired term must be filled by a Town vote. Also by unanimous vote of the Selectmen, Mark J. Makuc was appointed an Alternate Member of the Board of Appeals for a term ending June 30, 1994.

In addition, the Selectmen voted unanimously to appoint Edward M. Dunlop to the Council on Aging for a term ending June 30, 1996.

The Selectmen met with Planning Board Chair Wayne Burkhart to discuss the Morris and Helene Kirschner property. The Planning Board recently approved the Kirschners' Form A division of land, but the Selectmen object because the approved plan creates an additional nonconforming building lot in the Lake Shore district. Selectmen Peter Brown and Georgiana O'Connell are concerned about the legality of the plan with reference to Monterey's Zoning Bylaws, and the health risks of additional wastewater disposal in the area. Burkhart defended the Planning Board's actions, pointing out that they are not the same as those of a permit-granting authority. Selectman Stefan Grotz objected to a letter appealing the Planning Board's decision, which was sent over O'Connell's signature alone. O'Connell explained that

Always Call Benchmark

For personal, professional real estate services.

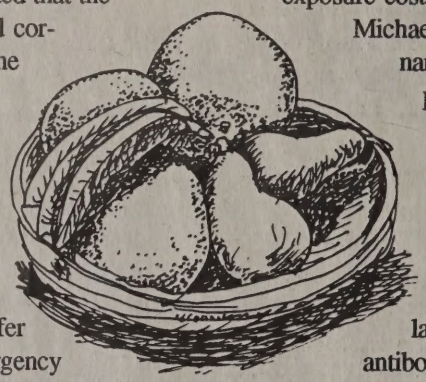
BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

Monterey Office 528-9595
Otis Office 269-4089

Nancy Kalodner, GRI Broker
Candice Piretti, GRI
John Piretti, Assoc.

MLS

she had written and sent the letter after consultation with Town Counsel, and after trying to reach Selectman Peter Brown. There was a possible conflict of interest, since Selectman Grotz represents the Kirschners as their attorney. Town Counsel Hugh Cowhig responded that the Planning Board had acted correctly, and indicated that the matter rests with the Board of Health.



The Board met with Town Clerk Barbara Swann regarding the date of a Special Town Meeting needed to transfer funds to pay for the emergency repairs to the Town Hall basement. It was decided to schedule the meeting for 7 p.m. on Friday, January 21, 1994. The Board discussed other items that may be included on the Warrant, including funds for the computer account.

— Maggie Leonard

SHEETROCK
TAPING
CARPENTRY
PAINTING
ROOFING
John Flórez
(413) 528-0898

POLITICS OF RABIES

The rabies epidemic that has decimated the raccoon population of the southern Berkshires, spread to other wild mammals, and endangered people (but not harmed anyone locally) has now also entered the political arena.

The Berkshire Eagle reported last month that a state law enacted in 1930 may still be in effect; the law requires communities to pay the cost of rabies treatment for residents who cannot afford it. According to this law, towns may award up to $50 per patient from the county's dog license account to pay for the treatments. A woman in Great Barrington applied to that town for funds under the old law when her doctor recommended treatment for possible exposure. The cost of such treatment can exceed $1,000. Although this case remains unresolved at press time, both County Commissioner Peter Menard and State Representative Chris Hodgkins have expressed their commitment to finding funds somewhere to help this person pay for the treatment. There seems little likelihood that Berkshire towns will suddenly be bankrupted by appeals for rabies funds under the old law.

Preventive treatment for rabies costs about $120 locally, and treatment after exposure costs about $1,500. Dr. Michael McGuill, a veterinarian at the State Department of Health, explained that the preventive treatment consists of three shots of a killed-virus vaccine which stimulates the production of antibodies in the vaccinated person. After exposure, a person needs five of these vaccinations, plus an injection of human rabies immune globulin, the antibody itself, for complete protection. The immune globulin alone costs just under $1,000.

The Town of Monterey subscribes to a health insurance plan offered by the County Commissioner's Office, and this plan would cover the cost of preventive treatment for anyone employed by the Town who needed protection, such as road crew members who may handle animals killed by vehicles. Dale Duryea, a Wildlife Control Officer who lives in Monterey, deals directly with pets and farm animals exposed to rabies, and the $120 cost of his preventive treatment was paid for by the County Commission from their dog license fund. The Monterey Board of Health has received no requests from individual residents for funds to treat rabies.

In the October issue of the *News* we reported five confirmed cases of rabid cats in Massachusetts, but no dogs. These statistics may reflect two circumstances: one, cats likely spend more time outdoors on their own than dogs, giving them more opportunities for contact with wild, rabid animals; two, dogs are licensed, but not cats. Rabies inoculation is a prerequisite for licensing a dog, and owners of unlicensed dogs may be severely fined. Cats are also required by law to be inoculated against rabies, but since they are not licensed, many more cats may remain unprotected because their owners are unaware of the danger, or unconcerned.

Roadside Store

Now open every day!
Monday through Friday
7:30 am. - 4:00 pm.
Saturday and Sunday
8:30 am. - 2:30 pm.

*Delicious Hot Breakfasts
*Weekday Lunch Specials
*Wonderful Baked Goods
*Farm Fresh Eggs
*Pure Maple Syrup

Route 23, Monterey
528-2633

Part of the Gould Farm Family

Rabies is a serious viral disease spread by a bite or scratch from an infected animal. Animals can be infected without showing symptoms for some time. Untreated, rabies is always fatal. Living with this epidemic requires a few common-sense precautions:

· Don't have any contact with wild or unknown animals, and be careful if your pet tangles with something wild. Wear rubber gloves in handling the pet, and get it to a vet as soon as possible.

· Vaccinate your pets, don't let them run, and feed them indoors.

Dale Duryea (528-9335), a Wildlife Protection Officer living in Monterey, and Martin Clark (528-6694), the Dog Officer in Great Barrington, are trained to deal with rabid animals. Call them at any time, or dial 1-442-0512, Berkshire County Police Dispatch, and ask for Unit 890. You may also reach Dale (by touch tone only) at 1-800-8058—at the tone, dial your own number and hang up. Dale will then call back. The Massachusetts Department of Health also maintains a rabies hotline, 617-522-3704.

DEMOCRATS TO MEET

Members of the Monterey Democratic Town Committee will meet on Friday, January 14 at 7 p.m. in the Firehouse. The agenda includes election of a Nominating Committee, which will present a slate of candidates for Town Offices, who must be selected by March 28; nomination of delegates to the annual Democratic Convention, who will be chosen by vote of the Democratic Caucus on February 12; and the election of Town Committee Officers for the next two years.

We will also have a report on a coalition of Democrats being formed in southern Berkshire County.

— Georgiana O'Connell

GRAPHIC DESIGN
ADVERTISING
ILLUSTRATION
DESIGN
HARRYET CANDEE
SR 70, BOX 44
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
413-528-5628

FRAN AMIDON

Lauren Andrus meets Santa Claus at the Fire Company's Christmas party. David Grover sang songs with the children, and The Great Malvini performed spellbinding magic tricks.

Boiler Room Café

405 Stockbridge Road
Great Barrington, MA 01230

413 - 528-4280

Michèle Miller

MOUNTAIN TRAILS
Bed & Breakfast

John and Maureen Congdon
Rt. 23, Monterey, Mass. 01245
(413) 528-2928

Field & Forest Reclamation

Efficient Removal of Rocks, Roots, Brush, Saplings and Stumps: Overgrown fields and pastures restored for planting to conservation status

M.M. G-1000 Ripper-Disc Equipment

J. Owen 528 - 2095

HOUSE CLEANING/ House caring when you are away. A homemaker who really knows how to take care of houses. Reliable with references. 528-3974

Kiwi Services

For that kind of service you always wanted but never got. I care about you and your home and the job I do.

Home Improvements & Repairs
Painting, Interior & Exterior
Carpentry, Sheetrocking
Wallpapering & Tiles
Excellent References
Fully Insured
No Job too Small.
Sheep Shearing

(413) 528-6541
Shravan Neill

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Happy New Year! We hope everyone managed to get through the holidays in one piece and not get too tired. If you feel a little down in the dumps, remember that this is natural after so much excitement. Try to let in as much sunshine as possible during the day, not only to warm up the house, but to elevate your spirits. Some other indoor activities to brighten the day for you and your children, suggested by the Cornell Extension Service bulletin, *Growing Together*, in the December, 1993 issue: (1) Decorate a tree for the birds! String popcorn, stale bread and nuts, and hang on a tree outdoors that can be observed from the house. (2) Leftover greeting cards are great for arts and crafts. Think of ways to cut them up and reuse them. Cutting them into shapes can be a way of creating puzzles. (3) Use a flashlight to make shadows on the wall. (4) Summer fun—wear your bathing suit in the bathtub! (5) A foam ball is a good indoor toy when the weather's cold. Rolled up socks are good, too, for throwing into an empty wastebasket or cardboard box. (6) Play your favorite music on tape or disc and dance with the children.

During the winter months, parent-child playgroups will follow the school schedule, and will be cancelled when school is cancelled.

A New Year's Luncheon for mothers and infants born during 1993 is planned for January 19, 12 noon at St. Peter's Center, Great Barrington. The luncheon is sponsored by various social services and medical groups. We can help with childcare and transportation if necessary, but we will need to know in advance, so call Claudette at 528-9311 if you wish to attend. We hope you will!

The South Berkshire Task Force on Families and Children has scheduled a Parents' Day Off for January 22 at Bear Care Center in Great Barrington, 10 am—3 pm. Childcare and lunch will be provided. Ted Tchack will lead the discussion. Please call Ted at 528-2909, or Claudette at 528-9311 for reservations or information. The Task Force also plans a series of discussion groups in February—one for teens and parents, and one for parents of school-age children. Look here for more information next month.

Affordable housing continues to be a problem here in South Berkshire County. Families interested in subsidized housing, first time homebuyers, and renters with landlord issues may contact Construct at 528-1985 for information to assist them.

We wish to thank the following donors, who helped make Christmas brighter for some families assisted by CHP: Great Barrington Congregational Church, Christman Group, Eagle Santa Fund, Watson Fund, Timberlyn Heights, Housatonic Curtains, Sheffield Mothers Club, South Berkshire Realtors, Girl Scout Troop No. 66, and Stockbridge Congregational Church.

— Claudette Callahan

MONTEREY GRANGE

Due to repairs underway at the Monterey Grange Hall, the regular meeting of Monterey Grange No. 291 was held in the basement of the Monterey United Church of Christ on December 1. Members brought in articles for the Christmas cheer boxes, which were packed on December 6 at Mary Wallace's home. The boxes will be delivered to local nursing homes, Fairview Hospital, nursing homes in Winsted and Norfolk, Connecticut, and to people at home.

The annual Christmas party was held at the home of the Worthy Lecturer Mary Wallace on December 15. Sixteen members and friends enjoyed a plentiful buffet, a variety program, carol sing, and $2 gift exchange. The Grange made cookies for the Monterey Fire Department Christmas Party. The monthly birthday cake in the shape of a Christmas tree was baked and decorated by Master Tillie Butler.

The next meeting will be January 19, 1994 at a location to be announced.

— Fraternally,
Mary Wallace, Lecturer

Telephone: (413) 258-4887
24 Hour Answering Service
Covering Southern Berkshire and Surrounding Area

Munson Satellite TV

Satellite & TV Antenna Systems Installed & Repaired

GEORGE MUNSON
Hubbard Rd. RC 66 Box 71
Sandisfield MA 01255

PLAYGROUND NEWS

The Monterey Playground Committee continues to work on plans for improving our children's playground in Greene Park. At recent meetings Sarah Bingham, Julie Shapiro, Richard Sheridan Jr., Karen Schulze, and James and Carol Edelman studied materials and proposals from numerous play equipment designers and manufacturers. Safety, aesthetics, environmental considerations, cost, and plain fun are some of the things with which we are concerned. We'll be meeting on site soon with a few selected playground representatives for further consultation. We expect to present our findings to the Park Commission in January.

An attractive, safe, enjoyable playground for children from toddlers to teenagers, as well as adults pushing strollers, relaxing, or visiting with neighbors is our goal. What a delight this will be for our town! If you want to participate in the planning, please call me at 528-0006.

— Carol Lewis Edelman

A swing set like this one is under consideration by the Playground Committee.

THE BIDWELL HOUSE

The Bidwell House is pleased to announce that it received a 1993 Membership Appreciation Award from the Berkshire Visitors' Bureau last month, in recognition of our recent grounds beautification. Installation of the herb garden and new perennial bed were mentioned at the awards ceremony, as was our plan to install six hiking trails over the next ten years.

Our Holiday Open House was a great success once again, thanks to the many volunteers who assisted, and special thanks to Robert Kuhner, who chaired the event for the second year in a row. Additional thanks to E. B. Dolby Florist and Ward's Nursery and Garden Center for their in-kind donations, which helped to decorate the house. Many others assisted as docents and baked cookies for the party. About eighty people attended the members-only party on Saturday, while another thirty visited the museum on Sunday.

On the heels of this event, we hosted two conservators from the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, who closely examined the museum's building and collection for three days. We will soon have a full report on their findings and recommendations, but the preliminary word is that the house is in great shape structurally, and the collections are also well preserved. The survey was funded with a grant from the Institute for Museum Services, a federal agency.

— Lisa Simpson

NOTICE

There will be a Special Town Meeting on Friday, January 21, 1994, 7 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse.

—Georgiana O'Connell, Chair
Peter S. Brown
Stefan Grotz
(Board of Selectmen)

LIBRARY NEWS

The Monterey Library will offer its mid winter 16mm film series once again this January and February. At press time, the names of all the films to be shown had not been confirmed, but the four dates are all Saturdays: January 22 and 29, and February 5 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the library basement. For more complete information call 528-3795, or visit the library. Admission is free, with popcorn and apple juice available for a nominal fee. Films will be appropriate for all ages.

Trustees of the Monterey Library have invited Julie Shapiro to show her paintings at the library beginning in January, as part of an ongoing exhibition of Monterey artists.

Julie was born in Stockbridge and grew up in Los Angeles. She graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and holds an MFA in painting from Yale University. She has exhibited widely, and is a founding member of The Gallery in Monterey. Since 1990 she has resided in Monterey, where she maintains a studio, living with her husband Alan Dean and her daughter Eloisa. Julie is the daughter of David and Gerry Shapiro, also of Monterey.

WHEN IT IS, WINTER 1994

SKATING AT THE RINK

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8 am		OPEN SKATE					
9	MEN'S HOCKEY						KIDS' HOCKEY
10							
11							
12 noon							OPEN SKATE
1 pm	OPEN SKATE						
2							
3		OPEN SKATE / STICKS					KIDS' HOCKEY
4							
5							
6							
7		MEN'S HOCKEY		MEN'S HOCKEY		MEN'S HOCKEY	OPEN SKATE
8							
9							

SATURDAY NIGHT MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY

January 22 and 29 February 5 and 12

7:30 p.m.

TOWN LIBRARY

Monday.....7-9p.m.
Tuesday.....9:30a.m.-12noon
Wednesday.....3-5p.m.
Saturday.....9:30a.m.-12noon
7 - 9 p. m.

TOWN BOARDS & OFFICIALS REGULAR MEETING TIMES

Selectmen.....Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
Board of Health.....Mondays, 7 p.m.
Building Inspector*.....Tuesdays, 1 p.m.
Board of Assessors.....2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month, 8 p.m.
Assessors' Assistant.....Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Planning Board.....2nd Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission.....2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
Finance Committee.....3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
Town Clerk*.....Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

*Also available by appointment. Call the town offices at 528-1443.

THE DUMP SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Sunday ..... 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday.....8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

PARK COMMISSION

A Happy New Year to all! As winter steadily clamps down on us, the past month has seen many changes at the Fire Company pavilion, which is also the home of Monterey's ice skating rink. At this writing the crew from Morton Buildings has framed the addition, and will soon complete the metal skin which forms the walls and roof of the building. At the opposite end of the structure, alterations undertaken by the Fire Company are also in full swing. Thanks to many volunteers, mostly hockey players, the boards forming the perimeter of the rink are scheduled to be in place by Christmas.

The Park Commission has devised a schedule for use of the improved skating rink (see chart on opposite page). Please be advised of the following restrictions:

Open Skate means skating only, **no** hockey sticks.

Helmets are **required** for playing hockey.

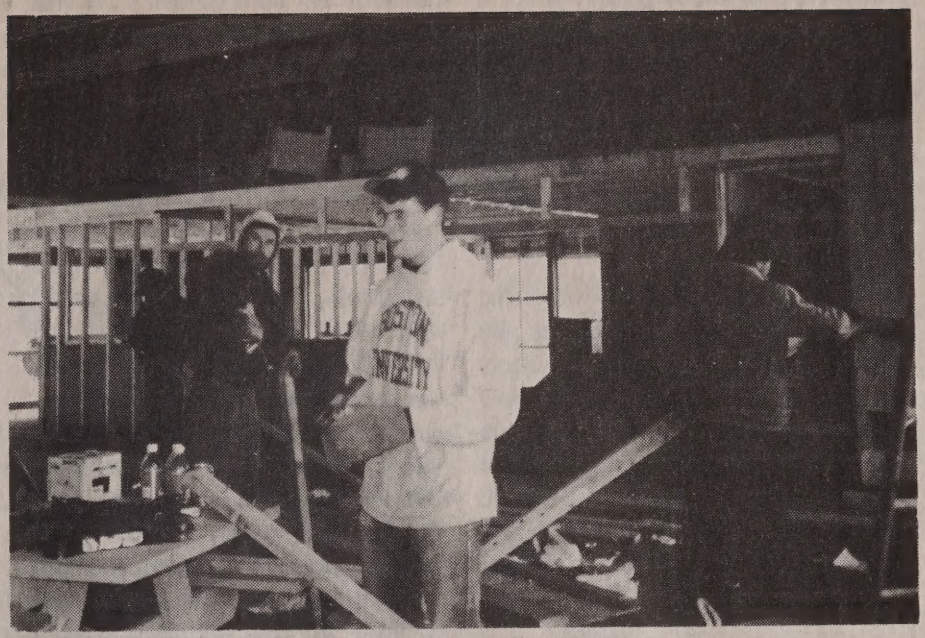
Only foam practice pucks are allowed for playing hockey.

Monday through Friday, 3—5 p.m., okay to use hockey sticks while skating. Please be considerate of others.

The first Saturday night open skate is January 8, weather permitting. Bring the whole family! Also, the annual Monterey Cup is set for January 15.

For details on any of the above, please feel free to contact any one of these Park Commission members: Mick Burns, Jim Thomas, or Tom Rosenthal.

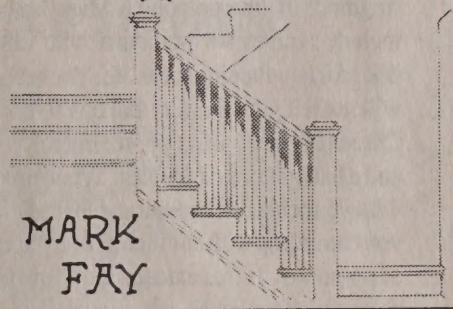
— Mick Burns



FRAN AMIDON

The work crew at the hockey rink one Sunday in December included Kip Makuc (center), Mark Mendel (right, back to camera), and Steve Snyder (left, facing camera).

THE BERKSHIRE CRAFTSMAN



• ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS
• FINE FINISH CARPENTRY
• DESIGN SERVICES

MARK FAY
258-4037

CONDOS TO CASTLES

HEBERT REALTY INC.

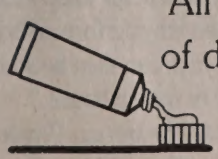
Linda Rabiner Hebert
Broker, GRI, CRS, CRB

Jenifer House Commons, Great Barrington, MA 01230
40 Housatonic Street, Lee, MA 01238
Route #23, Monterey, MA 01245
Bus: (413) 528-4880/243-3405
Res: (413) 528-3440
Fax: (413) 528-5654

MLS

SERVING MONTEREY SINCE 1955

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist



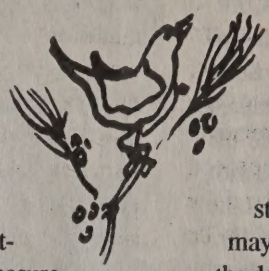
All phases of dentistry

528 - 6520
Route 23 Monterey

CHRISTMAS TREE POTPOURRI

Every year a sense of love and camaraderie gathers around our Christmas tree. Isn't there a way to have the tree last longer, and extend the intention and feeling of the holiday season?

It can be done in a variety of ways. The obvious one is choosing a living tree with balled roots that can be planted outdoors when its holiday chores are done. In New England this means planning ahead. You must dig the hole for the tree before the ground freezes. It also limits the size of the tree, increases the need for fresh water, and requires planting the tree outdoors at a time when it will not experience too great a temperature shock. In New England, that means choosing a species that can thrive indoors until the weather warms up in spring. Check with the nursery. For many people these are minor inconveniences greatly outweighed by the joy of the presence of growing trees year after year.



There are satisfying ways of recycling cut Christmas trees, too. One is a pleasure for your eyes and nose; others help the neighborhood birds or your perennial plants.

The prickly needles that fall from the tree can be used as the basis for an herbal potpourri. After you gather the needles and remove any stray strands of tinsel, toss them together with other fragrant dried herbs, such as lavender flowers, rose petals, and orange blossoms. Dust the blend with a bit of ground cinnamon and powdered sandalwood. Orris root powder can act as a fixative for the scent.

There is a nearly endless variety of essential oils available to strengthen the fragrance of your potpourri. Many herbals include recipes for potpourri with directions for lengthening scent life. The herbals will not tell you, though, that one five-foot Christmas tree yields approximately one and a half gallons of needles. When mixed with your choice of additional ingredients, you can end up with as much as four gallons of potpourri. If that extends the Christmas season a bit too much, you may decide not to harvest every single one of the needles!

Pine, fir, or spruce branches with their needles intact help stabilize soil temperature when placed at the base of small shrubs, or over perennial beds. This reduces the root ripping and the heaving that small perennials sometimes experience with a rapid fluctuation in temperature. The boughs also minimize the compacting effects on the soil of snow, sleet, and rain. Be sure the plants you protect this way can tolerate the acidity that evergreen needles produce in soil where they come to rest. (Strawberries, azaleas, blueberries, daffodils, and lupine are among the plants which grow well in acid soil.)

Birds wintering over in your neighborhood will relish the leftover strands of popcorn or cranberries which may have graced your tree indoors. String the decorative goodies on the branches of a tree or bush you can see from a window, and enjoy the winged parade. You may find that you are feeding squirrels as well, but, after all, weren't you looking for ways to extend the season of giving?

— MaryKate Jordan

MONTEREY SERVICE SHARES

Monterey Service Shares is starting off the new year with an exciting program. We will have a pot luck dinner on Sunday, January 30 at 6 p.m. in the Church basement. Susan Witt, Executive Director of the E. F. Schumacher Society, will join us to create a dialogue around what we in Monterey can do to support the local economy and gain some independence from the fluctuations of the federal and international economies. Susan has been instrumental in helping to institute independent economies both locally and in other communities. For example, SHARE (an arm of the Schumacher Society) gave Sue Sellew and Wayne Dunlop a low interest loan in the early days of Monterey Chevre. The Schumacher Society also helped Ithaca, New York, with ideas and funding to start a local currency called "Hours," part of a barter economy that helps keep money in the area. A person may perform a service to earn "Hours" which can then be spent at a local restaurant or movie house.

All are invited to join us. Please mark your calendars—this could be a lively dialogue!

— Angie Sherrard

M S LEINING ELECTRIC
ELECTRICAL HEATING A/C - REFRIG WELL PUMPS
BOX 52 MONTEREY, MA 528-9635
Lic. #12396 # 5091

ANGIE SHERRARD, M.A.
Psychotherapist
Therapy for Adults, Adolescents and Children
Hupi Road
Monterey, MA 01245
Phone 528-3974

CHICKADEE
Hair Design
specializing in precision cuts for men • women • children
also
CUSTOM PERMS • COLOR
for appointment call
229-3636
Prop. Bonnie Walsh Compeglio
CORNER RTE 7 & MAPLE AVE
SHEFFIELD

413-528-2715
LICENSED and INSURED
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
Old Work a Specialty
ELECTRICIAN
ED SEPANSKI
Monterey, MA 01245-0662
MASS. LIC. E32003

CHURCH NEWS

Another year is history! This one, 1993, has gone by so fast that it seems like a dream. Others have also commented to me on the speed with which the year has seemed to fly by. Is it because I'm getting older, or is there some sort of cosmic conspiracy afoot? Einstein said time is relative. In other words, as one approaches the speed of light, time slows down. I wonder if the reverse holds true. Could we somehow be moving through space more slowly, thereby speeding up the passage of time? I suspect this theory will not have much weight in scientific circles. In the final analysis, I suppose it's all in my head. Maybe that's why my head seems to be spinning in circles.

Each new year presents us with an opportunity to pause, review the past year, and look to the future. It's easy to look back over a year and remember the significant events that marked its passing. But our vision of the future is not as clear. No one can predict with certainty what will happen. It's like weather forecasting. As I sit at my word processor and write this, I can look out on a torrent of rain washing snow from the face of the earth. When I went to sleep last night, all sources predicted a major snow storm. Snow alert! cried the weather forecasters. Instead we received rain, rain, rain! What will 1994 bring? Snow, rain, sleet, sunshine, clouds, heat, humidity, and much more. We can make good guesses, but we can never predict for sure what will happen and when.

Although we don't know what the days will bring, we want to create some order. So many of us use the marking of the new year to make resolutions. Some things must be changed, and now's the perfect time to do it. If we can make the right change at the right time, we will have a semblance of certainty. The only certainty I see for the coming year is that time will move just as swiftly as it did in 1993. So fast, in fact, that many of us will be in such a whirlwind that we miss much of the meaning and mystery of life, simply because we do not take enough time to slow down, be silent, and open all our senses to the miracle of life. We will fail to experience the holy dimension of our being. We will lose sight of God.

Recently I came across an ancient Chinese proverb:

> It was said that God once sought advice from a Master.
>
> "I want to play a game of hide and seek with humankind. I've asked the angels what the best hiding place should be. Some said the depths of the ocean. Others said the top of the highest mountain. Still others said the far side of the moon, or a distant star. What do you suggest?"
>
> Said the Master, "Hide in the human heart. That is the last place people will think of."

If I'm to make a resolution for 1994, it must be to slow down and take the time to look within my heart. I just might find the greatest surprise of all inside. Angelus Silensius wrote:

> If in your heart you make
> a manger for Love's birth,
> Then God will once again
> become a child on earth.

Could it be that we, you and I, are directly responsible for birthing God in our world? Think about it! And, by the way— Happy New Year. May you move through it just a bit more slowly this year.

— Cliff Aerie

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

To pray is to regain a sense
of the Mystery that animates all beings.
The Divine margin in all our attainments.
Prayer is our humble answer
to the inconceivable surprise of living.
It is all we can offer in return
for the Mystery by which we live.
Who is worthy to be present
to the constant unfolding of time
amidst the meditation of mountains,
the humility of flowers,
wiser than all alphabets...
clouds that die constantly for
the sake of God's glory...
Only one response can maintain us:
GRATEFULNESS for witnessing the wonder;
for the gift to our unearned right to live...
to adore...to fulfill.
It is gratefulness which makes the soul great.

— Abraham Heschel

Come join your friends and neighbors
To worship the God of all Creation.
Every Sunday at 10 a.m.

A limited edition TOWNSCAPE print,
$75 plus $3. shipping.
HAYLOFT GALLERY, Monterey Stage,
Box 11, Great Barrington, Ma. 01230
(413) 528-1806

TO THE MARROW

My fish-spine footprints herringbone the snow
all the way uphill on skis. Centuries
of Japanese women once envied steps
so small. Today I only want to stay
upright in this treacherous endearing
stuff of Christmas cards. What genie threw me
toward these timid steps I etch below black
trunks of trees? Radio news: Barbara
jogging in the pewter dawn, music in
her ears, and Barbara Joslyn gone. This
aural impact, cold like snow, recalls my aunt's
galoshes, old black rubber boots ladies
wore for traction. How quickly footsteps slide
downhill, hurtle toward the lower flats. Tread
with wonder on this meager stand of years.

— MaryKate Jordan

FROM THE SEA OF RELENTLESS IMAGES

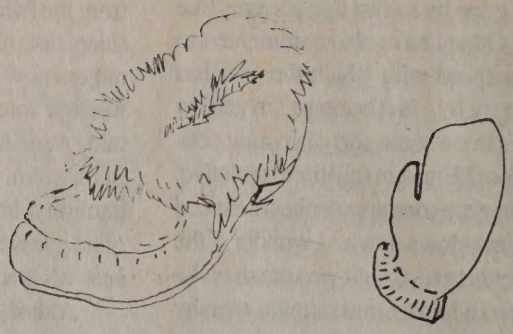
At the edge of the hearth
two Africans stand,

At the edge of starvation,
not dead not alive.

At the edge of history
migrant andirons wait,

At the edge of starvation,
at the edge of the hearth.

— Mark Mendel



SPEAKING OF THE WEATHER

Comparing thermometers no one cares
to be literal struggling these days
to find a universal metaphor

rain or shine, drought or blizzard
whatever from above covers
our common ground.

Though the others know the forecast
all along we confirm we go
this way together
speaking of the weather

through thirty percent chances.

All seasons we forbear judgment
on our mutual pride in record lows
still searching in the cold

front for that which may not hold
talk so diminutive against us.

— Royal Shepard

Reprinted by permission of the author
from *Time's Pickpocket*
University Editions, West Virginia, 1993

TENDING MY FIRE

Look you the blue teeth of flame
gnawing life—
as the willowwood dies
shrouded in sparks
who savors these blossoms of ash
the innocence of intention
the sum of so many would-be summers
of greening gentleness
who consumes the dry, the cold
of autumn's blight?

How parlous is our loving still
how brief, how brief our fruiting
yet, in our dismemberment, our winter
and in our falling into embers
what a giving, what a light!

— A. O. Howell

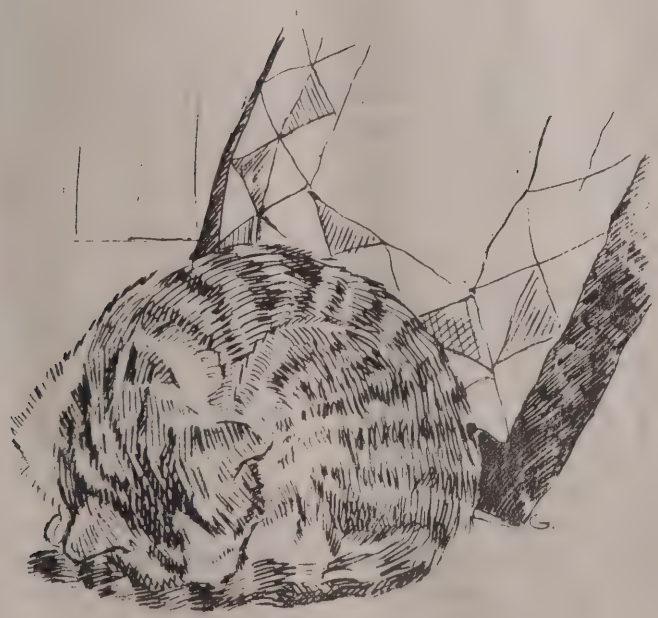
SNOWBIRDS

When the heavy snow is falling
and there is silence all around.
And you are there, in the snow storm
your only vision is the ground.

You are lost in the swirling whiteness,
and you feel so all alone.
Not a thing there to guide you
no fence post, tree, or stone.

Then, out of the ghostly heavens,
you hear a peeping sound
Then you see the darker snow flakes,
the little snow birds all around.

— Sheldon Fenn



like paintbrushes put out to dry
the leafless trees stand
rooted but reaching
waiting for next season's color.

— Karen Franchot

A FEW GOOD BEES

Emily Dickinson wrote the following poem:

> To make a prairie it takes a clover
> and one bee,
> One clover, and a bee,
> And reverie.
> The reverie alone will do,
> If bees are few.

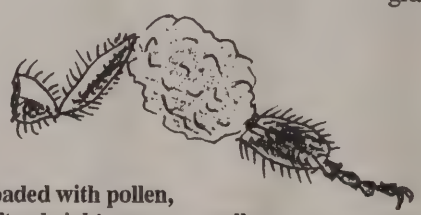
This is the time of year when bees are few. Their work for this season is survival, not multiplication, and they survive privately and in reduced numbers, out of sight. We keep a hive of bees at the top of our orchard and most of the winter we don't give them much thought. They are in there, arranged in a careful "cluster" which is the secret to their success as a colony and as individuals. Some insects hibernate during our awful winters, but honeybees are awake and active, maintaining a center-of-the-hive temperature of about 95°F, even when the temperature outside is below zero. When the bees on the outer parts of the cluster get cool, they creep in to the center and get warmed up. The cluster is constantly turning over this way. It also moves slowly about the hive, eating up the honey which has been put by for the winter. A good beekeeper has to be sure to leave enough honey for the hive.

hind leg of a honeybee, pollen basket empty

We brought our honey into the house recently, to warm it up a little before we extract it. The two "supers" sat on the kitchen floor near the cookstove and quite a few bees crawled out. On warm days we would pick them up gently and put them out, figuring they would find their way back to the hive. On cold days, when they wouldn't have been able to fly, we just kept them in the house. They would buzz against the sunny windows, making a music that reminded us of summer days in the garden. Bees have their own buzz, unlike that of any other insect; to know it is to be rewarded by its powers of evocation.

I think of the smell of honey on a hot day. It is rich and warm—not like a food cooking, which might make me salivate, but like a pure sensation which tickles my soul and makes me feel I already ate the food and died and went to heaven. The smell of honey makes me bypass a lot of bodily functions and earthly cares, takes me right to the summer source of pleasure. Sometimes when I am working in the garden, not far from our hive, the wind suddenly shifts and brings me this divine experience.

I also like to eat honey, of course. We are relaxed beekeepers and sometimes we lose a few thousand workers when they go off in a swarm in search of a new home. This just means our colony doesn't get as big as it might and we don't get as much honey from it as we would if we paid more attention to the private lives of our bees. Still, we have about sixty pounds of honey this year, and that is plenty for us and for a few gifts. Like many other small-time, backyard beekeepers, we love to draw our own labels and put the glowing liquid in clear glass jars for Christmas presents.



loaded with pollen, often bright orange or yellow

Most beekeepers in this country are no more professional than we are. The USDA reports 212,000 beekeepers, with a total of four million hives. Half of these hives are maintained by commercial beekeepers, who constitute only 1% of the 212,000. They do a big business, with their bees making 250 million pounds of honey each year. But by far the more significant aspect of their work is in pollination. Commercial crops pollinated by bees are valued annually at $20 billion, and honeybees do 80% of this work. (Wild bees and bumblebees do the rest.)

It seems fitting that unfathomably large numbers, statistics, percentages should be applied to bees. Theirs is such a precise and organized way of life that it should be honored by big math. Still, the basic unit is one bee, small and practical. She is quite fuzzy, with her hairs branched and good for carrying pollen. She goes to a flower looking for nectar, the plant's lure. On the way into the blossom, she gets all dusted with pollen, the male sexual substance of flowering plants. With special combs on her front legs she cleans this off her body and then molds it into blobs to be stuck in grooves on her hind legs. You can easily see these balls of pollen on the legs of a bee returning to the hive.

Bees go from one flower to the next, usually showing a high degree of "flower constancy," which means they visit one type of flower only per foraging trip. When the worker enters a new blossom, a few grains of pollen from the previous one fall onto the pistil of the new one, thus fertilizing its female parts. Now seeds and fruits develop and the plant goes on with dispersal and reproduction. Pretty soon, as the poet says, a prairie is made. For providing the prairie-makers with a wooden home we are rewarded twice over: we can take a share of the honey and as much of the reverie as we like.

— Bonner J. McAllester

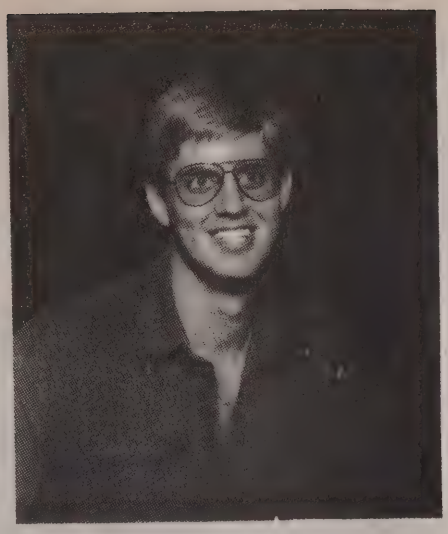
TROMPE L'OEIL ARTISTS

ANDY MATLOW
LAUREL TEWES

MURALS
FAUX FINISHES
PAINTED FURNITURE

STAR ROUTE
MONTEREY, MA 01245
(413) 269-6030

Jenny Brown



Doug Brown

WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

Maryellen, Jenny, and Doug Brown

Maryellen grew up in Weymouth, Massachusetts. From the age of four she was a dancer, and her love of basketball in high school took her straight into a physical education major at Bridgewater State College. On a blind date she met Robert Brown of Monterey, then studying civil engineering at the University of Massachusetts. Maryellen's first view of Monterey was when she came here to get married in 1961. She then transferred to UMass, still in physical education; she and Robert lived in a trailer in Pelham, and got their degrees in 1964. They returned to Monterey and built their house on Hupi Road on land they bought from Art Hastedt. Then Maryellen launched a career in physical education.

She taught at the Northampton School for Girls and then, closer to home, at the Windsor Mountain School in Lenox, and the Reid Middle School in Pittsfield. When she adopted Doug in 1970, she stopped her work in the schools in order to have a more flexible schedule. Jenny was born in 1972. Amid the exigencies of childcare, Maryellen gave home classes in exercise and gymnastics in both Lee and Monterey. She ran her own Berkshire Gymnastic School from 1978 until 1984.

Her many-faceted services to the Town of Monterey began in 1984 when she became Town Secretary. Two years later she was elected Treasurer and, for a brief period after Sue McIntyre died, she was Town Clerk as well! She was on the Park Commission for seventeen years, and has served even longer on the Republican Town Committee.

Doug has always been interested in the outdoors, sports, and wildlife. He especially enjoys mountain biking, soccer, and skiing, and was life guard at the Monterey Town Beach in 1985, 1986, and for the past two years. "It seems that I was always tending to be off the ground, in trees, on swing sets—I liked speed-skiing and jumping." He greatly admires his uncle, Frank Anglin, who is a senior pilot with Delta Airlines. It seemed inevitable that Doug should go into aviation, and from 1988 through 1990 he studied aviation technology and management at the Florida Institute of Technology. After two years off, he returned to a formal aviation major at Bridgewater, and will graduate in the winter or spring of 1995.

During his two-year sabbatical, and before, he engaged in all kinds of useful work. He has been a carpenter for eight years, starting in this work with his cousin, David Brown, in Great Barrington. For three years he worked with DZ Construction making liner pools, and he was with Corashire Construction for two years. Doug is licensed to fly a single engine plane, and has clocked over well over 150 hours in the air in three years.

"By the time I graduate from Bridgewater I will have one or two more licenses toward the three or four I'll need to work for a commercial airline."

On a blind date four and a half years ago, Doug met Katrina Scapin of Lee. They plan to be married in 1995, when he graduates from Bridgewater and she finishes studying to become a legal secretary.

Jenny Brown is an athlete, same as the others in her family, with a special interest in swimming, diving, and skiing. She, too, has done a stint as life guard at Monterey Town Beach. But her grand plan is theater and more theater. At Mount Everett High School she acted in *Anything Goes* and *Oklahoma!* Jenny currently attends Berkshire Community College, where she is a theater major. There she directed the one-act play *Present Tense*, and just played the role of a woman convict in *Our Country's Good*. She has won high honors at BCC and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for junior colleges. When she graduates next year, she will go to Carnegie Mellon University as an acting major.

"I do stage design, directing—anything in the theater. But my main interest has always been acting!" In addition to her school theater work, Jenny is already a professional in the outside world. She apprenticed at the Berkshire Theater Festival, and she interned for Monterey's own Four Colors Arts, directed by Nicky Hearon and Jason Brown. She was stage manager for *Perspehone's Cave*, and also stage-managed *Mame*, put on by the Fairview Hospital Auxiliary.

In the traveling line, Jenny has her own kind of wings. She spent two and a half weeks in France (exchanging with a family whose daughter visited here), and she drove across the country last summer "to the west coast and all around." She'll spend a week in Colorado next March, and plans to visit Europe again next summer.

Enthusiasm for wildlife is another interest shared by all in this close-knit family. Beavers come right up to their house to eat the apples on the lawn. Peppermint Brook, a beaver highway, goes through their property, and they see the attendant great blue herons, blackbirds, ducks, foxes, and deer. Doug remembers seeing his first black bear from the house when he was ten years old.

The Browns are very much of Monterey, its woods, its waters, its people, and also of some predictably far horizons beyond Monterey.

— David P. McAllester

Mad Scot
Small Engine Repair

Lawn Mowers
Tractors
Tillers
Chain Saws
Snowblowers

Many years' experience on all types of small engines.

Chains and blades sharpened.

Don Clawson
Box 26
Monterey 01245

Pickup and delivery.
Local service.
Reasonable rates.

(413) 528-3257

FISHER ASSOCIATES

CHRISTOPHER BLAIR
RESIDENTIAL + COMMERCIAL
DESIGN + PLANNING
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

P.O. BOX 426
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
(413) 528-4960

RICHARD SHERIDAN

Seasonal Caretaking
Landscaping

CLEARING ROADS & BUILDING SITES
SNOWPLOWING & SANDING

LAWN MOWING
LAWN CARE
TREE WORK

PO Box 382, Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 528-5559

BUYING? SELLING?

WILLIAM BROCKMAN
REAL ESTATE
FIDDLETOP • MONTEREY • MASSACHUSETTS 01245
413 - 528-4859

Country homes and estates, vacation homes, weekend retreats, building sites and acreage

William Brockman, GRI
John Jefferson
David Walker-Price

New York • Massachusetts • Connecticut

TOM ROSENTHAL

Dale Duryea with a forty-five pound beaver he trapped along the Konkapot River just north of the town center.

WILDLIFE SURVEY

Mammals

The big mammalian news that has been creeping up on us since the 1760s is that the Berkshires are once again Beaver Country. European demand for beaver pelts was a significant factor in bringing the Pilgrim Fathers to Plymouth. By the 1650s over 150,000 skins a year were shipped to Europe from the Fort Orange (Albany) trading post alone. The Berkshires were trapped out by the 1680s, and our local Indians, the Mahicans, raided as far off as Virginia and the Carolinas for the precious furs. During the eighteenth century silk replaced beaver as the tophat material of choice. This circumstance of fashion allowed our largest rodent to begin its slow comeback, for aside from humans beavers have no significant natural enemies.

This year Dale Duryea has had thirty calls from people complaining about beavers. The problems they cause usually involve flooding on roads, driveways, and timberland, and bridges endangered by high water or undermined abutments. Dale has trapped fifty-six beavers this year, thirty or so in Monterey, and up to a dozen in one location; one he caught in Beartown Forest had silvery, nearly albino, fur. Dale believes the local population has increased sharply. Calls regarding beavers have doubled over last year, but many of these turn out not to involve significant beaver activity. Earl Carnel, a trapper in Hinsdale of more than forty years' experience, feels the countywide population is stable at about 3,000 beaver, and Dale concurs in this overall population estimate. There are three or four trappers currently active in Berkshire County.

Clothing markets still drive the hunt for pelts, and the fur market has been down for years. In the middle 1970s there was profitable trade in beaver pelts. Then ranch raised mink dropped the price of wild skins, and subsequently that market also fell, due to a combination of factors, including a generally depressed economy, movement of clothing manufacture overseas to Hong Kong, China, and Korea, and the cost of raising mink. Dale may average $10 a pelt selling to the Canadian market. This is after trapping, skinning, stretching, and fleshing the animals. The best pelt, of good size and perfectly unblemished, may bring over $20. It's a lot of work.

The deer population is also large, and the recent hunting season didn't do much to reduce it. Monterey's policy of allowing hunting by permission only has kept many hunters away, and deer can stay in hiding better when the hunters are few.

Dean Amidon saw a mink catch a fish in a brook near his house on Sandisfield Road in early December. Standing in her yard, Shirley Olds saw a black bear on Blue Hill Road. The Oldses also saw a snowshoe rabbit (varying hare), brilliant white in their headlights, while driving through Beartown Forest. Another of those black squirrels that have migrated over here from Westfield has been spotted, this time by Eleanor Kimberly on December 7.

Several foxes have been seen this month, all in fine shape. There was one on Route 23, and another on Tyringham Road near the Hupi Road intersection. Conrad Ohman saw a fox sitting calmly on Hupi Road. On the morning of December 24, the Quisenberrys saw a fox cross the ice on the east end of Lake Garfield and move west along the bank in front of their place.

A fox with a lush coat crossed New Marlborough Road in front of Peter Murkett's truck at dusk on December 23; the fox hunted its way slowly across the pasture at Brookmead Farm, pouncing for voles, or meadow mice. Then on December 27, Michèle Miller saw a fox with a bushy coat (probably the same animal) dragging a dead duck across New Marlborough Road near Wellman Road. Her passing car only interrupted the fox momentarily.

Bobcats are in evidence. Conrad Ohman saw two crossing Beartown Road together, and the sight doubled his lifetime score. Dale Duryea saw one crossing a stream in Beartown Forest by means of a fallen tree. Under the tree was a beaver caught in one of Dale's traps.

Birds

Several herring gulls were gleaming white on the open blue water of Lake Garfield December 18. They are infrequent visitors here. They were not known to breed south of Maine before 1900, and were first recorded nesting on Martha's Vineyard in 1912, but by 1990 there were 35,421 nesting pairs along the Massachusetts coast!

A ruffed grouse was following the Olds family around their yard in mid-November. A week later it lost its life, apparently to a dog that it must have tried to follow as well. A sharp shinned hawk also died there after it hit a window near their bird feeder. The week of December 1 a red breasted nuthatch landed on Dean Amidon's shoulder, then walked headfirst down the front of his jacket, looked up at him and flew off. Margery Spagnoletti was astonished to see four white turkeys in her yard on Chestnut Hill Road, but they must have come over from Ellen Pearson's farm.

Loul McIntosh at Gould Farm reports that Dick Reseske saw a kingfisher on the Konkapot River at Curtis Road. Loul has seen no new birds at the feeder, but house sparrows are now brave enough to come. There was a standoff between a male evening grosbeak and a bluejay, who took up challenging stances with their beaks wide open (probably hissing) for all of a few seconds. Then the grosbeak blinked and flew off.

Reptiles

The LePrevost snapping turtles hatched and departed without anyone seeing it happen. Susan noticed a small exit hole at the site of the nest, and when she ventured to dig there, all she found were some shell fragments. "Maybe next season we'll have the privilege of again hosting such a miracle," she writes.

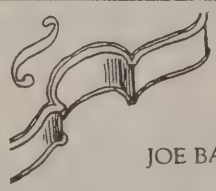
Insects

At Gould Farm during a late November warm spell, dozens of aphid-like insects on a willow bush woke up and had a last fling. Thousands of others remained torpid. These creatures were larger and blacker than actual aphids.

— David P. McAllester

CORASHIRE REALTY
Nancy Dinan, Broker
Office: 413-528-0014
Deborah & Rick Mielke
413-528-0864
413-528-1871
FAX: 413-528-4809

QUALITY WORK REASONABLE RATES
JAY AMIDON PAINTING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
16 YEARS EXPERIENCE
(413) 528-5099
STAR RT 62 BOX 40 GT BARRINGTON MASS. 01230


Stringed Instruments
Made ~ Repaired
Adjusted
JOE BAKER
HUNGER MOUNTAIN INSTRUMENTS
BOX 332, MONTEREY, MASS. 01245
(413) 528-9385

MONTEREY MASONRY, INC.
- CUSTOM BRICK, STONE, AND STUCCO WORK.
- SPECIALIZING IN 18th AND 19th CENTURY RESTORATION
- RUMFORD FIREPLACES
- CHIMNEYS REPAIRED AND REBUILT
- FIELDSTONE WALLS
- GARDEN TERRACES AND STEPS
- STONE AND BRICK PAVING
- CUT STONE SETTING
- CERAMIC TILE WORK
- LIME PLASTER

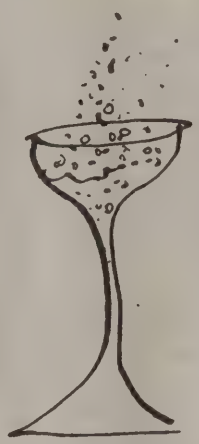
EXPERIENCED AND INSURED

MARK MENDEL 413-528-4136
BOX 343, MONTEREY, MASS. 01245

VOXED

Directions Out

When there's no snow, the drive to the airport from my house follows dirt roads for the first mile or two. Down off Dry Hill, Harmon Road to New Marlborough Road to Wallace Hall, zigzag following Rawson Brook to the hairpin uphill turn onto Sandisfield Road, paved. More uphill to a stretch of high country (the highest on this trip—about 1700 feet, if you like that sort of information) woods and rocky fields, past West Lake to Route 57, which takes a sharp turn to the left, then down for more than a mile past the Sandisfield dump—transfer station—into Montville, where the Buck River pulls alongside and the road crosses back and forth above it. On to the unmarked cluster of houses named West New Boston, where the Buck joins the Clam River near the Silver Brook Grill. Lately there's a bridge under repair, forcing a short detour onto a narrow road right next to the Clam, with a temporary light conducting after-you, one-way traffic. When you stop, there's just (pre-dawn) darkness and the sound of the river.



Across Route 8 and more fast water (West Branch of the Farmington River) at New Boston, up the merciless hill into Tolland, past the High Country Store to miles of up and down driving through woods and bony fields with outpost houses, a blueberry patch, terrain that runs together in the mind until the road drops into a deep pocket named Twining Hollow and switches back up on the other side. Now the Granvilles—West, Village and Center, down past Nestrovich's apple barn and orchards, the Granville Store at the bottom of the hill smelling like its funky cheese, and out onto some flats where the Berkshire Hills meet the Connecticut River Valley. An overshot water wheel sits here in the middle of a field that appears level. It looks like a poorly conceived stage set, but I have seen it turn once or twice in twenty years. There's a roadside stone bench if you want a longer look.

Enter Granby, and Connecticut, with more houses less clustered, spread along the road. On 189, a grand clapboard Congregational church on the right, hundreds of years old, and a residential wind generator on the left that's gone less than a decade after it went up. Steep rocks around a swimming hole close to the road on the left, just before the library with high clerestory windows all around. And among some houses close to Route 20, on the right, a giant sycamore with a storybook hollow at the base of its trunk, home to some talking fox. On the left side at Route 20, the fat iron chains that were draped between old granite posts for generations are gone. Now a cheap white picket fence marks the edge of the cemetery there, hiding the stone posts from the road.

Three quarters there, and the venturi effect starts to take hold. Traffic, stop-lights, more than one lane in the same direction, and beyond the dirt lot where people park to watch the planes take off and land, a full-blown four-lane divided highway. Loop toward the terminals at sixty mph, pause at the light, look for the gate. Nothing left but flight. Fling me into the cold air, land me on the hot beach.

As if the road knows what it's like to leave the Berkshires, and return home, climbing up again into the hills like a camper into the top bunk, folded out of sight in the woods, among the fields.

— Peter Murkett

Walsh's Auto Repair
Foreign & domestic cars
Some work done overnight
Custom pipe bending & welding
Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 9-5
413-528-4257
Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245

THE OBSERVER - NOVEMBER

The first snow of the season fell on the first day of November. It wasn't much, and it didn't last. The less said the better. Monterey statistics as follows.

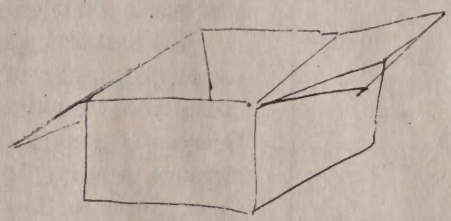
High temp (11/15)	71°
Low temp. (11/27)	15°
Avg. high temp.	49°
Avg. low temp.	32°
Avg. temp.	41°
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	37.3°
Precip. occ.	9 days
Total precip.	0.6" snow / 4.58" rain
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	3.75"
High bar. press. (11/25)	30.58
Low bar. press. (11/20)	29.50
High humidity (11/19)	96%
Low humidity (11/2)	53%
Avg. wind speed	13 mph
High wind gust (11/28)	59 mph

THE SEWING BOUTIQUE

- Zippers
- Leather & Suede & Canvas
- Quilt Covers
- Pillows & Dust Ruffles
- Cushion Covers
- Cornices
- Custom Draperies
- Repairs

Ginette Morrissey
Seamstress

1-800-421-5932



FRAN AMIDON

Looking west over the exposed lakebed from the eastern end of Lake Garfield.

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers, and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

MASS. LIC. NO. E-34497
PHONE 413-528-5444

DAN ANDRUS
ELECTRICIAN

MAIN ROAD
MONTEREY, MA 01245

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL WIRING
PHONE — CABLE TV

MONTEREY

GENERAL STORE

Serving Monterey for over 200 years

Route 23, Monterey
528-4437
Open 7 days a week

Zen Shiatsu
therapeutic massage
Lauren Cowdery
413-298-4296
Sandisfield, MA
member AOBTA
experienced

PERSONAL NOTES

Belated, but nonetheless heartfelt congratulations to **Chuck** and **Deb Mielke** on the birth of their daughter, **Alyssa Catherine**. Alyssa was born October 5 in Lake Wales, Florida. Elated grandparents are Bill and Kay Mielke, longtime Monterey folk now living in Lecanto, Florida. Alyssa has several Mielke relatives living here in town, including cousins Michael Mielke, Claire and Dinah Mielke, and Emily Boyer.

Congratulations to **Dick Tryon** of Lowland Farm, who was elected for a second term as president of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation at their annual state meeting on December 4.

Kudos to **Lois Ryder**, who was elected second vice president of the Kent Art Association, which maintains a gallery in Kent, Connecticut. Lois also recently became a signature member, Copley Artist, of the Copley Society of Boston.

Hats off to all the Monterey students named to first quarter honor roll lists at area schools. At Monument Mountain Regional High School, in Grade Twelve, **Meghan Sadlowski** made High Honors, and in Grade Eleven **Joshua Aerie** and **Paul Makuc** made High Honors. At Searles Middle School, in Grade Seven, **Arianna Aerie** made Honors.

At Mount Everett Regional in Sheffield, in Grade Twelve, **Leah Bohn** and **Bruce Snow** made High Honors; in Grade Ten, **Jason Tanner** made Honors; in Grade Nine, **Shaylan Burkhart** and **William Conklin** made High Honors, and **Jared Thomson** and **Noah Wright** made Honors. Also, in Grade Eight, **Stephanie Hastedt** made High Honors, and **Jeremy Vallianos** made Honors; in Grade Seven, **Lucy Rosenthal** made High Honors, and **Cedric Mason** made Honors. What a great start! Congratulations, and keep up the good work, all of you!

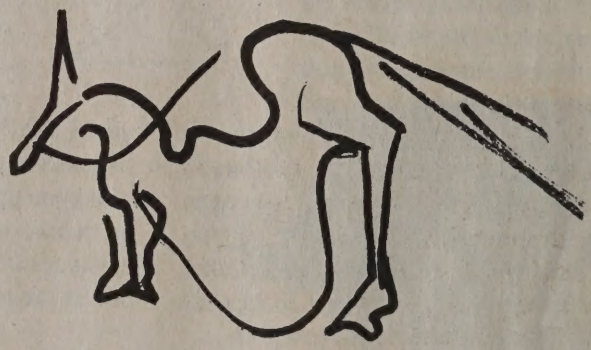
And congratulations to **Tish Thorpe**, who spearheaded the defense for the Mount Everett volleyball team in tournament play at Monument Mountain. The Mount Everett team not only made the finals, but went on to win the county volleyball title!

Very happy birthday wishes to **Don Welsch** on January 3, to **Joshua Gardner** on January 4, to **Spencer O'Connell Pope** on January 9, to **Cindy Hebert** on January 10, to **Jim Deloy** on January 11, to **Julian Mendel** and **Nadine Stoner** on January 13, to **Bridget Mendel** on January 15, to **Laura Ann Dinan** on January 22, and to **Andrew Gardner** on January 27.

And happy anniversary wishes to **Don** and **Carol Welsch** on January 5, and to **Rod** and **Jeri Palmer** on January 23.

Happy New Year, everyone! Please continue to share news, birthday wishes, etc. Just jot down your items, drop them in the mail to me, Route 23, or give me a call at 528-4519. Your contributions are appreciated.

— Stephanie Grotz



CONTRIBUTORS

We were pleased to add these names to our list of contributors this past month:

Dee Parker-Meyers

Leonard & Lynn Weisman

John & Stella Bodnar

Richard Grossman & Ann Arensberg ("We think the paper is great!")

Melinda Olds & Bradford S Duhon

James & Bonita Aubuchon

Puhua Gaun Ylo-Ping-Hui Li

Jeffrey & Valerie Butler

LETTERS

December 8, 1993

To the Editor:

The *Monterey News* arrived yesterday, December 7.

While the Calendar of Events for this month is slim, I noticed that I have missed an opportunity to visit The Bidwell House.

If the *Monterey News* is designed to inform its readers about events, past and future, of the town, it needs to get to its readers on time. Otherwise it becomes a magazine which can appear any old time.

Through its many years of publication, from the days when it was mimeographed (sometimes on Gould Farm's machine) to the present, the paper has generally been on time, never quite as late as recently.

As a reader (and the person responsible for getting the labels out on time) I would appreciate an "on-time" publication.

Sincerely Yours,
Loul McIntosh

We don't like to be a party to anyone missing the party, so we will make it policy to list events that fall early in the month one issue ahead. The Calendar in the January *News*, for example, will include any early February events that we know of at press time (third week of the month, when deadlines are met). Organizers of Events take note! Your cooperation is crucial.

Readers who assume that such a level-headed policy will somehow also lead to consistent punctuality may be disappointed.

— Ed.

CALENDAR

Thursday, January 6 Monterey Park Commission meets to discuss funding of proposed playground equipment, 7:30 p.m. at the Firehouse.

Sunday, January 8 Square and Contra Dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass., 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults $5, children $2 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Friday, January 14 Monterey Democratic Town Committee meets, 7 p.m. at the Firehouse.

Tuesday, January 18 Free blood pressure clinic, downstairs at Town Hall, 9-10:30 a.m.

Friday, January 21 Special Town Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Firehouse.

Saturday, January 22 Free movie, 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Monterey Library, title to be announced. Refreshments. Call 528-3795.

Saturday, January 22 Square and Contra Dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass., 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have some square or contradance experience. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Admission $5. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Saturday, January 29 Free movie, 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Monterey Library, title to be announced. Refreshments. Call 528-3795.

Saturday, February 5 Free movie, 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Monterey Library, title to be announced. Refreshments. Call 528-3795.

413-528-8279
1-800-750-0079

CAN DO ENTERPRISES
ODD JOBS PAINTING
WALLPAPERING STONEWORK
NO JOB TOO SMALL
FREE ESTIMATES

P.O. Box 713
Monterey, Mass. 01245

Gene Peters

Roger Tryon

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

AGRICULTURAL LAND
MANAGEMENT SERVICES

ALL TYPES OF TREE CARE
·REMOVALS
·PRUNING OF DEAD WOOD
·THINNING
·LAND CLEARING

MONTEREY, MA 01245 413/528-4091

CRONE CRAFTS

ASTROLOGY · TAROT · FLOWER ESSENCES
INDIVIDUALS · COUPLES · CLASSES

MARYKATE JORDAN
413/528-5557

P. O. BOX 191 MONTEREY, MA 01245

STEFAN GROTZ
ATTORNEY AT LAW

312 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

PHONE (413) 528-4740
FAX (413) 528-5185

We have the best rates for you . . .

- Purchase or Refinance
- Financial Service Representative

The Mortgage Corner, Inc.

RICK MIELKE
Monterey • (413) 528-0864

the BOOKLOFT

New & Used Books • Fine Cards • Magazines

Mon-Sat 9:30-8:00 • Sun noon-5:00
Barrington Plaza, Route 7, Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
413 528-1821
YOUR COMMUNITY BOOKSTORE SINCE 1971

Editor ..... Peter Murkett
Reporters ..... Maggie Leonard
David P. McAllester
Personal Notes ..... Stephanie Grotz
Business Manager ..... Barbara Gauthier
Circulation Manager ... Susan LePrevost
Mailing Labels ..... Gould Farm

We invite readers to submit news items, opinions, stories, poetry, drawings and photographs. Editorial material must reach the editor by the 15th of the month before publication. For detailed information, call the editor at 528-9937.

For changes of address, or information regarding subscription to the *Monterey News*, call Susan LePrevost, Circulation Manager, at 528-4595.

To receive complete information regarding advertising in the *News*, contact the Editor at 528-9937.

No portion of the Monterey News may be reproduced without permission.

Contributions from local artists this month: Sudi Baker, pp. 18, 19; Maureen Banner, pp. 2, 5, 8, 16, 19; Bonner McAllester, p. 12; Glynis Oliver, pp. 10, 11, 17.

MONTEREY NEWS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MONTEREY, MA 01245

Address Correction Re

Bonnie Cox
P.O. Box 447
Monterey, MA 01245

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Monterey, MA
Permit # 2